Setting up of Export Promotion Agency

1093. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is persistent demand to set up an export promotion agency within the cooperative sector to enable cooperatives to participate effectively in the export trade;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether participation of cooperatives is essential to encourage small and cottage industry sectors in the matter of exports; and

(d) if so, by when a decision is likely to be taken in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SHANTILAL PURUSHOTTAMDAS PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Small scale industry are already making valuable contribution to our country's exports and if they want to join together by forming a Society for promoting exports, such efforts could be welcomed.

(d) Does not ahise.

Production of Tea in the Country

1094. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether production of tea in the country has sharply declined;

(b) whether Government have to import tea to meet its increasing domestic demand; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard and what steps Government are taking in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SHANTILAL PURUSHOTTAMDAS PATEL): (a) and (b) Table below will indicate that there has been no decline in the production of tea and as such at present there is no need to import tea:—

Year	Production (M. Kgs.)
1986-87	617·28
1987-88	677·85
1988-89	682·67
1989-90	702·81
1990-91	659·59*

*April-December

(c) However, keeping in view the growing rate of domestic consumption of tea, Government has taken several short-term as well as long-term measures to increase the production of tea in the country.

Number of Customs Boats deployed in Anti-Smuggling Drive

1095. SHRIMATI KAML SINHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of customs craft/Boats with the Customs Department deployed for anti-smuggling work:

(b) whether these craft|boats are technologically advanced for field requirement;

(c) what is the amount of contraband goods seized by the use of such craft/boats during the last three years; and

(d) what steps have been taken to enhance the capacity and number of such craft/boats to counter smuggling activities undertaken on the sea?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Presently 120 crafts/boats of various types have been deployed by the Customs Department for anti-smuggling work around the Indian coastline. The services of Coast Guard vessels are also requisitioned as and when more sophisticated vessels are needed for anti-smuggling duties.